

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment adds a statement regarding Federally sponsored research or development financial assistance for at least a portion of the present invention, in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a).

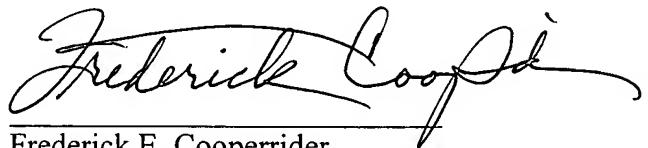
The Applicant requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 4/08/04



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